

ARTS BUILD COMMUNITIES

The Iowa Arts Council, in collaboration with the University of Iowa's Office of Outreach and Engagement and the Iowa State University College of Design, is pleased to invite leaders in Iowa's arts community to submit an application to participate in the Arts Build Communities pilot program from July 2015 - June 2016.

Arts Build Communities is designed to provide support for arts projects that uniquely address civic challenges and community issues through the arts. During 2015-16, a limited number of participants will receive financial and technical assistance and faculty and student resources to carry out project activities meeting the program goals.

Program Partners

The [University of Iowa's Office of Outreach and Engagement](#) brings the work of faculty, staff, and students together with the people of Iowa. Programs within the office include Arts Share, Grant Wood Art Colony, and the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities. Through these initiatives, the University of Iowa seeks to make a difference by growing community partnerships.

The [Iowa State University College of Design](#) is committed to collaboration and outreach with Iowa neighborhoods and communities. Through place- and issue-driven design research, Iowa State University students and faculty form partnerships to develop comprehensive vision plans and design-oriented solutions to community needs.

Program Goals

Today many communities face complex and structural challenges that require interdisciplinary and cross-sector solutions. At the same time, the role of artists and the arts in the broader cultural, social and economic areas of community life has expanded. When brought into conversation with other disciplines - on an intentional and frequent basis - the arts and artists can offer new ways of looking at and developing innovative solutions to persistent challenges. Additionally, by supporting a limited number of projects in year one, we seek to foster a close working relationship with participants and create effective models that can provide new learning to the field and be replicated in other communities.

Specifically, through the Arts Build Communities initiative we seek to:

- showcase artists and arts leaders as engaged and innovative partners in the social sphere
- connect artists and arts leaders with public entities and community organizations outside the arts sector
- support projects and programs that are designed to address and affect positive change in relation to one or more specific areas of community needs (examples: health, transportation, environmental, social justice)

Program Benefits

Financial Assistance

Participants will become eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in grant funds from the Iowa Arts Council after November 1, 2015 to support related expenses, including artist fees, materials, supplies and marketing expenses.

Faculty and Staff Assistance

Participants will receive advisory and technical assistance from Iowa Arts Council staff and university faculty and staff to design and implement projects.

Student Assistance

Participants may be matched with university graduate and undergraduate students, on a project by project basis, to assist in project design and implementation.

Eligibility

The following types of applicants are eligible to participate:

- Current, legal Iowa resident artist who is 18 years of age or older
- Federally tax exempt nonprofit organization incorporated and located in Iowa
- K-12 school district located in Iowa
- Unit of local, county or municipal government in Iowa
- Federally-recognized tribal government located in Iowa

Letter of Interest

Applicants will be evaluated for participation in Arts Build Communities based on submission of a Letter of Interest, which must address the following questions:

- Briefly describe the community issue or challenge that you wish to design and implement an arts-based project around.
- Briefly describe your interest and experience, if any, in working collaboratively to design and implement a community-based arts project, including experience working with partners outside of the arts
- Why is the timing right for you or your organization to participate in this initiative?
- How will the advisory support and technical assistance provided enhance or expand upon the work you are already doing?

Review Process and Criteria

The Iowa Arts Council and Arts Build Communities partners will review submitted Letters of Interest to determine whether the applicant and proposed project(s) meets the program goals.

Timeline

Letter of Interest Due	June 1, 2015
Project Design Begins	August 1, 2015
Grant Funds Available	After November 1, 2015
Project Implementation	January 1 - July 1, 2016

Application Instructions

Applicants must submit applications via the Iowa Arts Council's SlideRoom, an online application portal. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Applicants can access the current online application requirements at <http://www.iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com/>. Applicants can visit the [SlideRoom Help Desk](#) for technical assistance. There is no charge to individuals or organizations for using Slideroom. Upon visiting the IAC's Slideroom portal, artists will be required to create a username and password. After logging in, click on the "Arts Build Communities Letter of Interest" and complete the required information in the application.

Contact

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